

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 (presently amended) A wound dressing composition comprising an intimate mixture consisting essentially of a chitosan and an oxidized cellulose.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein said oxidized cellulose is in the form of dispersed fibers or powder.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein said oxidized cellulose and chitosan are dispersed in a semi-solid or solid vehicle for topical application.

Claim 5 (previously presented) A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxidized cellulose comprises oxidized regenerated cellulose (ORC).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxidized cellulose and the chitosan together make up at least 25% by weight of the material on a dry weight basis.

Claim 7 (original): A wound dressing composition according to claim 6, wherein the oxidized cellulose and the chitosan together make up at least 50% by weight of the material on a dry weight basis.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01 to about 5% by weight on a dry weight basis of one or more wound healing therapeutic substances.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a flexible film.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A wound dressing composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition the weight ratio of chitosan to oxidized cellulose is from 1:10 to 10:1.

Claim 11 (original) A wound dressing composition according to claim 10, wherein the weight ratio of chitosan to oxidized cellulose is in the range 1:4 to 4:1.

Claim 12 (previously presented) A wound dressing comprising a wound dressing composition according to claim 1.

Claim 13 (original): A wound dressing according to claim 12, which is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented) A method of preparing an active wound dressing material comprising the steps of:

- (i) contacting a composition according to claim 1, with a biological medium containing cell growth factors to bind the cell growth factors to the material; and
- (ii) washing and drying the material having the cell growth factors bound thereto to form said active wound dressing material.

Claim 20 (canceled).